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SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6433

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Long, Franklin, Zarelli, Winsley and Stevens; by request of Attorney General)

Read first time 02/06/98.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to registration of individuals who have committed
- 2 sex or kidnapping offenses; amending RCW 9A.44.135, 9A.44.140, and
- 3 43.43.540; reenacting and amending RCW 9A.44.130 and 4.24.550; and
- 4 declaring an emergency.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 6 Sec. 1. RCW 9A.44.130 and 1997 c 340 s 3 and 1997 c 113 s 3 are 7 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- 8 (1) Any adult or juvenile residing in this state who has been found
- 9 to have committed or has been convicted of any sex offense or
- 10 kidnapping offense, or who has been found not guilty by reason of
- 11 insanity under chapter 10.77 RCW of committing any sex offense or
- 12 kidnapping offense, shall register with the county sheriff for the
- 13 county of the person's residence. Where a person required to register
- 14 under this section is in custody of the state department of
- 15 corrections, the state department of social and health services, a
- 16 local division of youth services, or a local jail or juvenile detention
- 17 <u>facility as a result of a sex offense or kidnapping offense, the person</u>
- 18 shall also register at the time of release from custody with an

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- 1 official designated by the agency that has jurisdiction over the 2 person.
- 3 (2) The person shall provide ((the county sheriff with)) the 4 following information when registering: (a) Name; (b) address; (c) 5 date and place of birth; (d) place of employment; (e) crime for which 6 convicted; (f) date and place of conviction; (g) aliases used; and (h) 7 social security number.
- 8 (3)(a) Offenders shall register within the following deadlines. 9 For purposes of this section the term "conviction" refers to adult 10 convictions and juvenile adjudications for sex offenses or kidnapping 11 offenses:
- (i) OFFENDERS IN CUSTODY. (A) Sex offenders who committed a sex 12 13 offense on, before, or after February 28, 1990, and who, on or after July 28, 1991, are in custody, as a result of that offense, of the 14 15 state department of corrections, the state department of social and health services, a local division of youth services, or a local jail or 16 17 juvenile detention facility, and (B) kidnapping offenders who on or after July 27, 1997, are in custody of the state department of 18 19 corrections, the state department of social and health services, a 20 local division of youth services, or a local jail or juvenile detention facility, must register at the time of release from custody with an 21 official designated by the agency that has jurisdiction over the 22 offender. The agency shall within three days forward the registration 23 24 information to the county sheriff for the county of the offender's anticipated residence. The offender must also register within twenty-25 26 four hours from the time of release with the county sheriff for the county of the person's residence. The agency that has jurisdiction 27 over the offender shall provide notice to the offender of the duty to 28 Failure to register at the time of release and within 29 twenty-four hours of release constitutes a violation of this section 30 and is punishable as provided in subsection (7) of this section. 31
 - (ii) OFFENDERS NOT IN CUSTODY BUT UNDER STATE OR LOCAL JURISDICTION. Sex offenders who, on July 28, 1991, are not in custody but are under the jurisdiction of the indeterminate sentence review board or under the department of correction's active supervision, as defined by the department of corrections, the state department of social and health services, or a local division of youth services, for sex offenses committed before, on, or after February 28, 1990, must register within ten days of July 28, 1991. Kidnapping offenders who,

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on July 27, 1997, are not in custody but are under the jurisdiction of 1 the indeterminate sentence review board or under the department of 2 correction's active supervision, as defined by the department of 3 4 corrections, the state department of social and health services, or a local division of youth services, for kidnapping offenses committed 5 before, on, or after July 27, 1997, must register within ten days of 6 7 July 27, 1997. A change in supervision status of a sex offender who 8 was required to register under this subsection (3)(a)(ii) as of July 9 28, 1991, or a kidnapping offender required to register as of July 27, 10 1997, shall not relieve the offender of the duty to register or to reregister following a change in residence. The obligation to register 11 12 shall only cease pursuant to RCW 9A.44.140.

13 (iii) OFFENDERS UNDER FEDERAL JURISDICTION. Sex offenders who, on or after July 23, 1995, and kidnapping offenders who, on or after July 14 15 27, 1997, as a result of that offense are in the custody of the United 16 States bureau of prisons or other federal or military correctional 17 agency for sex offenses committed before, on, or after February 28, 1990, or kidnapping offenses committed on, before, or after July 27, 18 19 1997, must register within twenty-four hours from the time of release 20 with the county sheriff for the county of the person's residence. Sex offenders who, on July 23, 1995, are not in custody but are under the 21 jurisdiction of the United States bureau of prisons, United States 22 courts, United States parole commission, or military parole board for 23 24 sex offenses committed before, on, or after February 28, 1990, must 25 register within ten days of July 23, 1995. Kidnapping offenders who, 26 on July 27, 1997, are not in custody but are under the jurisdiction of 27 the United States bureau of prisons, United States courts, United States parole commission, or military parole board for kidnapping 28 offenses committed before, on, or after July 27, 1997, must register 29 30 within ten days of July 27, 1997. A change in supervision status of a sex offender who was required to register under this subsection 31 (3)(a)(iii) as of July 23, 1995, or a kidnapping offender required to 32 33 register as of July 27, 1997 shall not relieve the offender of the duty 34 to register or to reregister following a change in residence. 35 obligation to register shall only cease pursuant to RCW 9A.44.140.

(iv) OFFENDERS WHO ARE CONVICTED BUT NOT CONFINED. Sex offenders who are convicted of a sex offense on or after July 28, 1991, for a sex offense that was committed on or after February 28, 1990, and kidnapping offenders who are convicted on or after July 27, 1997, for

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a kidnapping offense that was committed on or after July 27, 1997, but who are not sentenced to serve a term of confinement immediately upon sentencing, shall report to the county sheriff to register immediately 4 upon completion of being sentenced.

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(v) OFFENDERS WHO ARE NEW RESIDENTS OR RETURNING WASHINGTON Sex offenders and kidnapping offenders who move to RESIDENTS. Washington state from another state or a foreign country that are not under the jurisdiction of the state department of corrections, the indeterminate sentence review board, or the state department of social and health services at the time of moving to Washington, must register within ((thirty)) ten days of establishing residence or reestablishing residence if the person is a former Washington resident. register under this subsection applies to sex offenders convicted under the laws of another state or a foreign country, federal or military statutes, or Washington state for offenses committed on or after February 28, 1990, and to kidnapping offenders convicted under the laws of another state or a foreign country, federal or military statutes, or Washington state for offenses committed on or after July 27, 1997. Sex offenders and kidnapping offenders from other states or a foreign country who, when they move to Washington, are under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections, the indeterminate sentence review board, or the department of social and health services must register within twenty-four hours of moving to Washington. The agency that has jurisdiction over the offender shall notify the offender of the registration requirements before the offender moves to Washington.

26 (vi) OFFENDERS FOUND NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY. Any adult or juvenile who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity under 27 chapter 10.77 RCW of (A) committing a sex offense on, before, or after 28 29 February 28, 1990, and who, on or after July 23, 1995, is in custody, 30 as a result of that finding, of the state department of social and 31 health services, or (B) committing a kidnapping offense on, before, or after July 27, 1997, and who on or after July 27, 1997, is in custody, 32 33 as a result of that finding, of the state department of social and health services, must register within twenty-four hours from the time 34 35 of release with the county sheriff for the county of the person's residence. The state department of social and health services shall 36 37 provide notice to the adult or juvenile in its custody of the duty to register. Any adult or juvenile who has been found not guilty by 38 39 reason of insanity of committing a sex offense on, before, or after

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February 28, 1990, but who was released before July 23, 1995, or any 1 2 adult or juvenile who has been found not quilty by reason of insanity of committing a kidnapping offense but who was released before July 27, 3 4 1997, shall be required to register within twenty-four hours of receiving notice of this registration requirement. 5 department of social and health services shall make reasonable attempts 6 7 within available resources to notify sex offenders who were released 8 before July 23, 1995, and kidnapping offenders who were released before 9 July 27, 1997. Failure to register within twenty-four hours of 10 release, or of receiving notice, constitutes a violation of this section and is punishable as provided in subsection (7) of this 11 12 section.

(b) Failure to register within the time required under this section constitutes a per se violation of this section and is punishable as provided in subsection (7) of this section. The county sheriff shall not be required to determine whether the person is living within the county.

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- (c) An arrest on charges of failure to register, service of an 18 19 information, or a complaint for a violation of this section, or arraignment on charges for a violation of this section, constitutes 20 actual notice of the duty to register. Any person charged with the 21 crime of failure to register under this section who asserts as a 22 defense the lack of notice of the duty to register shall register 23 24 immediately following actual notice of the duty through arrest, 25 service, or arraignment. Failure to register as required under this 26 subsection (c) constitutes grounds for filing another charge of failing to register. Registering following arrest, service, or arraignment on 27 28 charges shall not relieve the offender from criminal liability for 29 failure to register prior to the filing of the original charge.
- 30 (d) The deadlines for the duty to register under this section do 31 not relieve any sex offender of the duty to register under this section 32 as it existed prior to July 28, 1991.
 - (4)(a) If any person required to register pursuant to this section changes his or her residence address within the same county, the person must send written notice of the change of address to the county sheriff at least fourteen days before moving. If any person required to register pursuant to this section moves to a new county, the person must send written notice of the change of address at least fourteen days before moving to the county sheriff in the new county of residence

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and must register with that county sheriff within twenty-four hours of 1 The person must also send written notice within ten days of 2 the change of address in the new county to the county sheriff with whom 3 4 the person last registered. The county sheriff with whom the person last registered shall promptly forward the information concerning the 5 change of address to the county sheriff for the county of the person's 6 7 new residence. If any person required to register pursuant to this 8 section moves out of Washington state, the person must also send 9 written notice within ten days of moving to the new state or a foreign 10 country to the county sheriff with whom the person last registered in Washington state. Within ten days of receipt of notice of change of 11 address to a new state, the county sheriff shall forward the 12 information regarding the change of address to the agency designated by 13 14 the new state as the state's offender registration agency.

- (b) It is an affirmative defense to a charge that the person failed to send a notice at least fourteen days in advance of moving as required under (a) of this subsection that the person did not know the location of his or her new residence at least fourteen days before moving. The defendant must establish the defense by a preponderance of the evidence and, to prevail on the defense, must also prove by a preponderance that the defendant sent the required notice within twenty-four hours of determining the new address.
- 23 (5) The county sheriff shall obtain a photograph of the individual 24 and shall obtain a copy of the individual's fingerprints.
- 25 (6) For the purpose of RCW 9A.44.130, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 26 70.48.470, and 72.09.330:
- 27 (a) "Sex offense" means any offense defined as a sex offense by RCW 28 9.94A.030 and any violation of RCW 9.68A.040 (sexual exploitation of a 29 minor), 9.68A.050 (dealing in depictions of minor engaged in sexually 30 explicit conduct), 9.68A.060 (sending, bringing into state depictions 31 of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct), 9.68A.070 (possession of depictions of minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct), 9.68A.090 32 (communication with minor for immoral purposes), 9.68A.100 (patronizing 33 34 juvenile prostitute), or 9A.44.096 (sexual misconduct with a minor in 35 the second degree), as well as any gross misdemeanor that is, under chapter 9A.28 RCW, a criminal attempt, criminal solicitation, or 36 37 criminal conspiracy to commit an offense that is classified as a sex 38 offense under RCW 9.94A.030.

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- 1 (b) "Kidnapping offense" means the crimes of kidnapping in the 2 first degree, kidnapping in the second degree, and unlawful 3 imprisonment as defined in chapter 9A.40 RCW, where the victim is a 4 minor and the offender is not the minor's parent.
- 5 (7) A person who knowingly fails to register or who moves without notifying the county sheriff as required by this section is guilty of 6 7 a class C felony if the crime for which the individual was convicted 8 was a felony or a federal or out-of-state conviction for an offense 9 that under the laws of this state would be a felony. If the crime was other than a felony or a federal or out-of-state conviction for an 10 offense that under the laws of this state would be other than a felony, 11 violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor. 12
- 13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9A.44.135 and 1995 c 248 s 3 are each amended to read 14 as follows:
- (1) When ((a sex)) an offender registers with the county sheriff 15 pursuant to RCW 9A.44.130, the county sheriff shall make reasonable 16 attempts to verify that the ((sex)) offender is residing at the 17 18 registered address. Reasonable attempts at verifying an address shall 19 include at a minimum ((sending certified mail, with return receipt requested, to the sex offender at the registered address, and if the 20 return receipt is not signed by the sex offender, talking in person 21 with the residents living at the address)): 22
- 23 <u>(a) Each year the county sheriff shall send by certified mail, with</u>
 24 return receipt requested, a nonforwardable verification form to the
 25 offender at the offender's last registered address.

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- (b) The offender must sign the verification form, state on the form whether he or she still resides at the last registered address, and return the form to the county sheriff within ten days after receipt of the form. When returning the form, the offender shall appear at the office of the county sheriff to provide a copy of his or her fingerprints and a current photograph.
- (2) The sheriff shall make reasonable attempts to locate any sex offender who fails to return the verification form or who cannot be located at the registered address. If the offender fails to return the verification form or the offender is not at the last registered address, the county sheriff shall promptly forward this information to the Washington state patrol for inclusion in the central registry of sex offenders.

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- Sec. 3. RCW 9A.44.140 and 1997 c 113 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:
 - (1) The duty to register under RCW 9A.44.130 shall end:

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- 4 (a) For a person convicted of a class A felony, or a person
 5 convicted of any sex offense or kidnapping offense who has one or more
 6 prior conviction for a sex offense or kidnapping offense: Such person
 7 may only be relieved of the duty to register under subsection (3) or
 8 (4) of this section.
- 9 (b) For a person convicted of a class B felony, and the person does
 10 not have one or more prior conviction for a sex offense or kidnapping
 11 offense: Fifteen years after the last date of release from
 12 confinement, if any, (including full-time residential treatment)
 13 pursuant to the conviction, or entry of the judgment and sentence, if
 14 the person has spent fifteen consecutive years in the community without
 15 being convicted of any new offenses.
- 16 (c) For a person convicted of a class C felony, a violation of RCW 17 9.68A.090 or 9A.44.096, or an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a class C felony, and the person does not have one or more prior 18 19 conviction for a sex offense or kidnapping offense: Ten years after 20 the last date of release from confinement, if any, (including full-time residential treatment) pursuant to the conviction, or entry of the 21 judgment and sentence, if the person has spent ten consecutive years in 22 the community without being convicted of any new offenses. 23
 - (2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall apply equally to a person who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity under chapter 10.77 RCW of a sex offense or kidnapping offense.
- 27 (3) Any person having a duty to register under RCW 9A.44.130 may petition the superior court to be relieved of that duty, if the person 28 has spent ten consecutive years in the community without being 29 30 convicted of any new offenses. The petition shall be made to the court 31 in which the petitioner was convicted of the offense that subjects him or her to the duty to register, or, in the case of convictions in other 32 33 states, a foreign country, or a federal or military court, to the court 34 in Thurston county. The prosecuting attorney of the county shall be 35 named and served as the respondent in any such petition. The court shall consider the nature of the registrable offense committed, and the 36 criminal and relevant noncriminal behavior of the petitioner both 37 before and after conviction, and may consider other factors. Except as 38 provided in subsection (4) of this section, the court may relieve the 39

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- petitioner of the duty to register only if the petitioner shows, with clear and convincing evidence, that future registration of the petitioner will not serve the purposes of RCW 9A.44.130, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 46.20.187, 70.48.470, and 72.09.330.
- (4) An offender having a duty to register under RCW 9A.44.130 for 5 a sex offense or kidnapping offense committed when the offender was a 6 7 juvenile may petition the superior court to be relieved of that duty. 8 The court shall consider the nature of the registrable offense 9 committed, and the criminal and relevant noncriminal behavior of the 10 petitioner both before and after adjudication, and may consider other factors. The court may relieve the petitioner of the duty to register 11 for a sex offense or kidnapping offense that was committed while the 12 petitioner was fifteen years of age or older only if the petitioner 13 shows, with clear and convincing evidence, that future registration of 14 15 the petitioner will not serve the purposes of RCW 9A.44.130, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 46.20.187, 70.48.470, and 72.09.330. The court may relieve 16 17 the petitioner of the duty to register for a sex offense or kidnapping offense that was committed while the petitioner was under the age of 18 19 fifteen if the petitioner (a) has not been adjudicated of any 20 additional sex offenses or kidnapping offenses during the twenty-four months following the adjudication for the offense giving rise to the 21 22 duty to register, and (b) the petitioner proves by a preponderance of 23 the evidence that future registration of the petitioner will not serve 24 the purposes of RCW 9A.44.130, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 46.20.187, 25 70.48.470, and 72.09.330.

26 <u>This subsection shall not apply to juveniles prosecuted as adults.</u>

- (5) Unless relieved of the duty to register pursuant to this section, a violation of RCW 9A.44.130 is an ongoing offense for purposes of the statute of limitations under RCW 9A.04.080.
- 30 (6) Nothing in RCW 9.94A.220 relating to discharge of an offender 31 shall be construed as operating to relieve the offender of his or her 32 duty to register pursuant to RCW 9A.44.130.
- 33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.43.540 and 1997 c 113 s 6 are each amended to read 34 as follows:
- The county sheriff shall forward the information, photographs, and fingerprints obtained pursuant to RCW 9A.44.130, including any notice of change of address, to the Washington state patrol within ((five)) three working days. The state patrol shall maintain a central registry

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- 1 of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders required to register under
- 2 RCW 9A.44.130 and shall adopt rules consistent with chapters 10.97,
- 3 10.98, and 43.43 RCW as are necessary to carry out the purposes of RCW
- 4 9A.44.130, 9A.44.140, 10.01.200, 43.43.540, 46.20.187, 70.48.470, and
- 5 72.09.330. The Washington state patrol shall reimburse the counties
- 6 for the costs of processing the offender registration, including taking
- 7 the fingerprints and the photographs.
- 8 Sec. 5. RCW 4.24.550 and 1997 c 364 s 1 and 1997 c 113 s 2 are 9 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- 10 (1) Public agencies are authorized to release information to the 11 public regarding sex offenders and kidnapping offenders when the agency
- 12 determines that disclosure of the information is relevant and necessary
- 13 to protect the public and counteract the danger created by the
- 14 particular offender. This authorization applies to information
- 15 regarding: (a) Any person adjudicated or convicted of a sex offense as
- 16 defined in RCW ((9.94A.030)) 9A.44.130 or a kidnapping offense as
- 17 <u>defined by RCW 9A.44.130</u>; (b) any person under the jurisdiction of the
- 18 indeterminate sentence review board as the result of a sex offense or
- 19 <u>kidnapping offense</u>; (c) any person committed as a sexually violent
- 20 predator under chapter 71.09 RCW or as a sexual psychopath under
- 21 chapter 71.06 RCW; (d) any person found not guilty of a sex offense or
- 22 <u>kidnapping offense</u> by reason of insanity under chapter 10.77 RCW; and
- 23 (e) any person found incompetent to stand trial for a sex offense or
- 24 kidnapping offense and subsequently committed under chapter 71.05 or
- 25 71.34 RCW.
- 26 (2) The extent of the public disclosure of relevant and necessary
- 27 information shall be rationally related to: (a) The level of risk
- 28 posed by the offender to the community; (b) the locations where the
- 29 offender resides, expects to reside, or is regularly found; and (c) the
- 30 needs of the affected community members for information to enhance
- 31 their individual and collective safety.
- 32 (3) Local law enforcement agencies shall consider the following
- 33 guidelines in determining the extent of a public disclosure made under
- 34 this section: (a) For offenders classified as risk level I, the agency
- 35 shall share information with other appropriate law enforcement agencies
- 36 and may disclose, upon request, relevant, necessary, and accurate
- 37 information to any victim or witness to the offense and to any
- 38 individual community member who lives near the residence where the

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offender resides, expects to reside, or is regularly found; (b) for offenders classified as risk level II, the agency may also disclose 2 relevant, necessary, and accurate information to public and private 3 4 schools, child day care centers, family day care providers, businesses 5 and organizations that serve primarily children, women, or vulnerable adults, and neighbors and community groups near the residence where the 6 offender resides, expects to reside, or is regularly found; and (c) for 7 8 offenders classified as risk level III, the agency may also disclose 9 relevant, necessary, and accurate information to the public at large. 10

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38 39 (4) Local law enforcement agencies that disseminate information pursuant to this section shall: (a) Review available risk level classifications made by the department of corrections, the department of social and health services, and the indeterminate sentence review board; (b) assign risk level classifications to all ((sex)) offenders about whom information will be disseminated; and (c) make a good faith effort to notify the public and residents at least fourteen days before the offender is released from confinement or, where an offender moves from another jurisdiction, as soon as possible after the agency learns of the offender's move, except that in no case may this notification provision be construed to require an extension of an offender's release date. The juvenile court shall provide local law enforcement officials with all relevant information on offenders allowed to remain in the community in a timely manner.

(5) An appointed or elected public official, public employee, or public agency as defined in RCW 4.24.470 is immune from civil liability for damages for any discretionary risk level classification decisions or release of relevant and necessary information, unless it is shown that the official, employee, or agency acted with gross negligence or The immunity in this section applies to risk level in bad faith. classification decisions and the release of relevant and necessary information regarding any individual for whom disclosure is authorized. The decision of a local law enforcement agency or official to classify ((a sex)) an offender to a risk level other than the one assigned by the department of corrections, the department of social and health services, or the indeterminate sentence review board, or the release of any relevant and necessary information based on that different classification shall not, by itself, be considered gross negligence or The immunity provided under this section applies to the release of relevant and necessary information to other public

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- officials, public employees, or public agencies, and to the general public.
- 3 (6) Except as may otherwise be provided by law, nothing in this 4 section shall impose any liability upon a public official, public 5 employee, or public agency for failing to release information 6 authorized under this section.
- 7 (7) Nothing in this section implies that information regarding 8 persons designated in subsection (1) of this section is confidential 9 except as may otherwise be provided by law.
- (8) When a local law enforcement agency or official classifies ((a sex)) an offender differently than the offender is classified by the department of corrections, the department of social and health services, or the indeterminate sentence review board, the law enforcement agency or official shall notify the appropriate department or the board and submit its reasons supporting the change in classification.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

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